

Message Text

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LIMDIS

NOFORN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJ: CSCE: EASTERN VIEWS ON PACE OF WORK AND TIMING OF THIRD STAGE

1. IN THREE SEPARATE PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH USEEL OFFICER ON OCT 14, THREE GENERALLY WELL-INFORMED EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES STRESSED NEED FOR EARLY CONCLUSION TO STAGE II AND FOR FOCUSING ON POSSIBLE TIME FRAME FOR STAGE III. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE RESUMPTION OF WORK IN SEPTEMBER THAT EASTERN REPS HAVE TAKEN INITIATIVE TO RAISE QUESTION OF TIMING OF STAGE III, AND COINCIDENCE OF THREE APPROACHES ON SAME DAY IS RATHER STRIKING. IN CONVERSATION WITH ANOTHER US DELOFF, SOVIET AMBASSADOR DUBININ SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH US SOON FOR A DISCUSSION OF CSCE FOLLOW UP. THIS CONTRASTS WITH POSTURE OF DISINTEREST IN FOURTH AGENDA ITEM WHICH SOVIETS HAVE MAINTAINED OVER LAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

2. SOVIET AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH, WHO HAS BEEN AWAY FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN MOSCOW, LAUNCHED INTO CASUAL CORRIDOR CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE HAD RETURNED TO GENEVA WITH
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FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO FINISH THE CONFERENCE "EVEN SOONER

THAN POSSIBLE," AND THAT STAGE II SHOULD NOW MOVE AHEAD TO ITS CONCLUSION.

3. CZECH REP ASKED TO SEE USDEL OFFICER ON "URGENT BASIS," OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS PRESENT SITUATION IN WORKING GROUP ON FOLLOW-UP (WHICH IS FAR FROM URGENT) BUT WAS CLEARLY MORE INTERESTED IN SOUNDING US OUT ON TIMING. CZECH SAID IT NOW LOOKED LIKE CSCE WAS HEADING TOWARD A THIRD STAGE AT SUMMIT LEVEL, AND THAT IT WAS THEREFORE DESIRABLE TO FOCUS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON TIMEFRAME FOR THIRD STAGE, SINCE IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO BLOCK OUT TIME ON CALENDARS OF NATIONAL LEADERS. IN CZECH VIEW, STAGE II SHOULD FINISH BULK OF ITS WORK BY CHRISTMAS RECESS AND COMPLETE WORK ON ASSEMBLING FINAL DOCUMENTS BY ABOUT END OF FEBRUARY, WITH STAGE III IN APRIL OR MAY.

4. BULGARIAN REP TOOK SIMILAR LINE, BUT THOUGHT THIRD STAGE COULD BE IN MARCH OR APRIL. HE AGREED IT WAS A LITTLE EARLY TO TRY TO FORESEE THIRD STAGE TIMING, BUT THOUGHT CSCE AS A WHOLE SHOULD REVIEW THIS QUESTION AND COME TO SOME UNDERSTANDING ABOUT MID-NOVENBER.

5. WE MADE NO DRIECT RESPONSE TO MENDELEVICH. WITH CZECH AND BULGARIAN, WE SAID SIMPLY THAT TIMING OF THIRD STAGE WOULD DEPEND ON MANY CONSIDERATIONS, AND IT WAS PERHAPS PREMATURE TO TRY TO PREDICT IT NOW.
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